

May 17, 2006

Theresa Aguilar
Certified Reporter No. 50531
800 West Main Street
Safford, Arizona 85546

Clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court
1501 West Washington, Suite 402
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court,

I respectfully request that the Supreme Court require the presence of a certified reporter in all civil, juvenile, and criminal evidentiary proceedings in Superior Court.

Graham County does use electronic recording in the pro tem courtroom. Because of the rural nature of Graham County, it is more cost-effective than having a per diem reporter. Another factor is the minimal request for transcript production from that division. However, the best method of keeping the record is the use of a certified reporter.

When having to transcribe proceedings from electronic recording I have, at times, personally had difficulty not being able to clearly understand or comprehend what is being said by the witnesses, lawyers or judges. If there are multiple people speaking at a hearing, there is not a reporter present to ask that everyone speak one at a time or to have testimony or argument repeated therefore making transcription difficult and time-consuming. The court has also experienced electronic malfunction, which has gone undetected until a review of the recording. Power failures have halted the proceedings. The litigants were very upset upon being unable to acquire a transcript because of lack of electronic record being made.

Therefore, although there are instances when electronic recording is feasible, I strongly support utilizing a certified reporter for the most accurate and timely production of the court record.

Sincerely,

Theresa Aguilar

cc: Jennifer Greene/Administrative Office of the Court